

that it was difficult to tell their authority. He seldom finished or coloured his sketches at the time he made them, but would mark on the parts of the drawing with the colour that they ought to be (as "red," "white," "black") without indicating the shade. This explains why the figures which are taken from his sketches in the first volume of Jardine's 'Naturalist's Library' (1842) were so erroneously coloured, and makes the determination of some of his figures doubtful. It was this defect that rendered his beautiful and extensive series of sketches of so little value to the zoological student.

*On some Remarkable Egg-sacs on an Annelid from the North Sea.*

By Prof. KARL MÖBIUS.

Several specimens of *Scolecoplepis cirrata*, Sars, were captured in the expedition of the 'Pommerania' on the 6th August, 1872, at a depth of 69 fathoms, to the north-east of Scotland. This worm belongs to the family Spioidæ. The body-segments are 2·4 millims. broad and 4 millims. deep; they have on each side a foot composed of a large upper and a smaller lower lamina. On the 28 segments of the fore body linguliform branchiæ with long vibratile cilia are placed at the inner border of the upper foot-lamina. The hinder segments have no branchiæ. All the segments bear long pointed setæ both on the upper and lower foot-plates; on the lower lamina of the hinder segments there are also uncini; and below and between them some small pouches, having the form of a swallow's nest, are attached. Many of these pouches contain a round mass of eggs, which often projects far beyond the orifice of the pouch. The eggs protruding from the pouches are held together by a net with quadrangular meshes, formed of cords of extremely fine threads. Before the pouches are filled with eggs this net lies in part like a lining within its pouch, and in part on the skin of the worm between the foot-lamina. As the latter contain many mucus-glands with fine orifices opening externally, we may assume that these glands form the net. The eggs are produced in the body-cavity of the worm, and issue through apertures which traverse the body-wall between the lower foot-lamina; they then lift the ready prepared net from the skin, and are retained by it upon the body of the worm. The young animals which are developed from the eggs can slip out into the water through the meshes of the net.

We know of many Polychæteous Annelids which bear their eggs and young in a sac attached to the ventral surface (e. g. *Autolytus prolifer*, Müll.), one which carries them on the shorter dorsal filaments of its feet (*Syllis pulligera*, Krohn), and one which conceals them beneath folds of skin, developed on the peduncle of the operculum with which it closes its tube (*Spirorbis spirillum*, Pagenst.); but the peculiar arrangement for the protection of the progeny seen in *Scolecoplepis cirrata* was previously unknown.—*Schriften des naturwiss. Vereins für Schleswig-Holstein*, Band i., February 2, 1874.